

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-36 in the application, and subsequently added Claims 37 and 38. The Applicants affirm that Claims 8-14 and 26-36 were withdrawn from consideration as being non-elected claims, and have been cancelled pending the possible filing of a divisional application. Additionally, Claims 2 and 23 have been previously cancelled.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 15-22, 24, 25 and 38 are allowable, and Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present Amendment, the Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 5. In addition to Claim 1, the Applicants have amended Claims 3, 5, 6, 15, 20, 21, 24, 37 and 38 to eliminate any ambiguity therein. The Applicants have amended the aforementioned claims to further the prosecution of the present application and make no representations regarding the merits of the cited references in view of the subject claims. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-7, 15-22, 24, 25 and 37-38 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 4 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,384,447 to Mihnea, *et al.* ("Mihnea") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,054 to Gardner, *et al.* ("Gardner") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,413,806 to

Sicard, *et al.* ("Sicard"). For the reason as discussed above, the Applicants have overcome the rejection of Claim 1, and the claims dependent thereon. In accordance therewith, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claims 1, 3, 4 and 37.

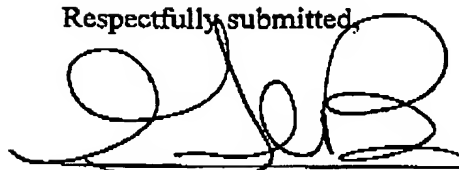
The Examiner has also rejected Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mihnea in view of Sicard, further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0227190 to Cai, *et al.* ("Cai") and further in view of Gardner. For the same reason as discussed above, the Applicants have overcome the rejection of Claim 1, and the claims dependent thereon. In accordance therewith, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 6 and 7.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3-7, 15-22, 24, 25 and 37-38. Additionally, in conjunction with the Notice of Allowance, the Applicants would appreciate that Claim 37 be renumbered in series with Claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (namely, Claims 3-7) and that Claim 38 be renumbered in series with Claim 15 and claims dependent thereon (namely, Claims 16-22, 24 and 25).

The Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 732-1001 if such would further expedite the prosecution of the present application. If a fee is due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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